



HOUSING HIGHLIGHTS

A quarterly newsletter for Housing and Community Development

HUD AND HUMAN SERVICES FUNDING

The City of Mesa will hold a series of public meetings to consider potential projects and review funding requests received from City departments and non-profit organizations for its Program Year 2017-18 Community Development Block Grant (CDBG), HOME Investment Partnerships (HOME), Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG), and Human Services programs.

Online applications for the CDBG, ESG and Human Services funding will be accepted until Feb. 2 at 5 p.m. Presentations will be made to the Housing and Community Development Advisory Board March 2. City Council's Community and Cultural Development Committee will then hold a public hearing to review and make funding recommendations. Details of those meetings are still to be determined. City Council will review and make final funding recommendations at a Study Session April 6 at 7:30 a.m.

A 30-day public comment period for the Annual Action Plan will take place from April 7 to May 6. City Council is expected to vote on the plan at its May 15 meeting. The Annual Action Plan will be submitted to HUD May 18 or after HUD has presented a final funding award.

Funding for the CDBG, HOME and ESG programs is provided by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) and is used for housing and community development activities that primarily benefit low and moderate-income persons and assist in the prevention or elimination of slum or blighting influences. Funding for the Human Services programs comes from the City's General Fund and the ABC: A Better Community program consisting of donations from the general public made through their utility bill payments.

For more information, visit www.mesaaz.gov/housing and click on the links for "Funding Schedules & Information" followed by "FY 17/18 Funding Schedule."

VOUCHER WAIT LIST OPENS

The City of Mesa Housing Authority received 6,738 pre-applications for the Housing Choice Voucher Program (Section 8) Dec. 6-19. Sixty percent of the applicants were Mesa residents. It was the first time the waitlist has been open in the City of Mesa since May 2013.

Applicants will be contacted based on a combination of priorities and a first-come, first-serve basis. Preference will be given to the homeless and people living or working in Mesa.

The Housing Choice Voucher Program, funded by HUD, provides rental assistance to low income families by contracting with private owners and subsidizing a portion of the family's monthly rent.



POINT IN TIME HOMELESS COUNT

Volunteers are needed for the Maricopa Association of Government (MAG) 2017 Point-In-Time Homeless Count Tuesday, Jan. 24 from 5 a.m. to Noon. The one-day street count helps determine the number of people experiencing homelessness in Maricopa County during a given point in time. Cities, such as Mesa, that receive HUD funding are required to conduct the comprehensive count which helps local governments and nonprofit organizations more effectively allocate resources necessary to meet the needs of the homeless population.

Volunteers, who must be 18 or older, will be deployed in groups of three or four to count and interview homeless individuals and their families in various parts of Mesa. The volunteers will be required to attend a volunteer training session prior to the count. The training session will be held Wednesday, Jan. 18 from 5:30 p.m. to 7 p.m. at Fire Station 201, 360 E. 1st St. An alternate training session will be held Monday, Jan. 23 in Phoenix at Bethany Bible Church, 6060 N. 7th Ave., from 5:30 p.m. to 7 p.m. To register, visit www.mesaaz.gov/PITCount.



NONPROFIT PARTNER PROFILE: HOUSE OF REFUGE

House of Refuge, 6935 E. Williams Field Road, was founded in 1996 to provide quality housing and support services to the homeless. Following the closure of Williams Air Force Base, House of Refuge received 88 houses and a former chapel in an agreement reached with the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services to provide transitional housing for eligible homeless families and individuals. Since 1996, House of Refuge has served over 7,000 people, or roughly 2,500 families, and is one of the largest transitional housing facilities in Arizona.

The City of Mesa has provided funding for several years from the ABC: A Better Community Program and Human Services funds for employment services such as job training and has provided CDBG funds in the past for energy efficiency and insulation projects.

On May 2, 2016, House of Refuge was notified by HUD that it was eliminating funding for transitional housing. The

HUD funding was 75 percent of the organization's budget. As a result, 144 people from 48 families had to be moved and 10 employees lost their jobs. House of Refuge was among 200 agencies nationwide which provide transitional housing that were impacted by HUD's decision.



Since HUD's announcement, the City of Mesa has provided funding to help 10 of the 48 displaced House of Refuge families find permanent housing. The funding was primarily for rent and utility deposits.

"Thanks to the forward thinking of Mayor Giles and the City Council as well as Liz Morales and her staff, they have guided us through the most difficult time in our 20-year history," House of Refuge Executive Director Nancy Marion said. "Because of their quick actions and support, we successfully moved 144 individuals in

109 days, all the while beginning our rebuilding phase. We are forever grateful."

Save the Family Foundation of Arizona, A New Leaf and United Methodist Outreach Ministries (UMOM) have provided assistance to the other 38 families.

House of Refuge recently received a significant grant from the Arizona Attorney General's Office that will provide housing for 18 additional families in 2017. House of Refuge continues to seek additional grant funding and private donations.

Adopt a Home is an annual sponsorship of one of their homes. A donation of \$11,000 provides a home for a family along with access to such services as a computer lab, financial literacy programs, case managers and a community center for children. In December, House of Refuge successfully found donors to sponsor, or adopt, 22 homes for 2017. This means a total of 40 homes will be available to families in need. For more information about the program, visit www.houseofrefuge.org.

NEW EMPLOYEES

LISA FLORES has joined the Housing and Community Development Division as an Office Assistant II.

CALENDAR OF MEETINGS/EVENTS

MON., JAN. 23. CITY COUNCIL. 5:45pm. Upper Level Council Chambers, 57 E. 1st St.

TUES., JAN. 24. POINT IN TIME HOMELESS COUNT. 5am-Noon

WED., JAN. 25. RESIDENT ADVISORY BOARD. 10am. Mesa City Plaza, Room 250 Large, 20 E. Main St.

SAT., JAN. 28. 17TH ANNUAL HISTORIC HOME TOUR. 10am-4pm

SAT., JAN. 28. REGIONAL UNITY WALK. 5:45pm. Tempe Beach Park.

THUR., FEB. 2. HOUSING AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT ADVISORY BOARD. 6pm. Lower Level Council Chambers, 6pm

SAT., FEB. 4. HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTE COLLECTION EVENT. 8am-Noon. East Mesa Service Center, 6935 E. Decatur St.

MON., FEB. 6. CITY COUNCIL. 5:45pm. Upper Level Council Chambers, 57 E. 1st St.

MON., FEB. 27. CITY COUNCIL. 5:45pm. Upper Level Council Chambers, 57 E. 1st St.

THUR., MARCH 2. HOUSING AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT ADVISORY BOARD. Time and location TBD

MON., MARCH 6. CITY COUNCIL. 5:45pm. Upper Level Council Chambers, 57 E. 1st St.

MON., MARCH 20. CITY COUNCIL. 5:45pm. Upper Level Council Chambers, 57 E. 1st St.

THUR., MARCH 23. HOUSING SERVICES GOVERNING BOARD. 7:30am. Lower Level Council Chambers, 57 E. 1st St.



CONTACT:

HOUSING AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

480-644-3536 | housing.info@mesaaz.gov | Hours 7am-6pm Monday-Thursday